SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

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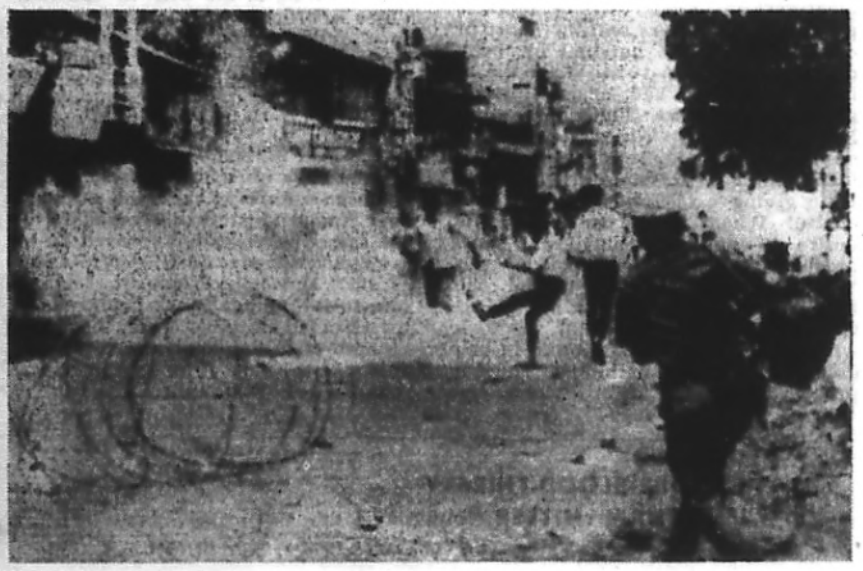


editorial

Political Whirlwind

A political whirlwind is sweeping South Viet Nam towns and cities, with Saigon as its centre, and shaking the dictatorial and warlike Nguyen Van Thieu regime, as a result of the turmoil arising from the long-standing struggle for independence and peace, the movement for better living conditions and the drive against election frauds.

The latter broke out when, under Thieu's pressure, the Saigon National Assembly passed an undemocratic electoral bill. With Provision 7 of its Article 10, the new law constituted an epitome of the manoeuvres aimed at jockeying out opposition candidates and ensuring Thieu's easy re-election. It has therefore been one of the targets of the fight of the urban population and the anti-Thieu forces. The point is to have it abrogated and another one drafted. Since Duong Van Minh and Nguyen Cao Ky withdrew from the contest and after the election to the "Lower House" (Aug 29), the presidential competition due to be held on October 3, has obviously become a farce, a crude one-horse race. Preparations for its performance have unveiled the US as the awkward stage-manager and Thieu as its stooge. Nixon sticks to Thieu as an instrument of his "Vietnamization" policy, whereas the latter does what he can, however despicable, to cling on to his masters.

The urban population of South Viet Nam has been perfectly aware of that and has put up a vigorous fight to overthrow the bellicose traitor Nguyen Van Thieu. "Thieu spells war," "Thieu means bloodshed." The students and other sections of the people in Saigon, Hue and other localities were resolved to topple him on September 18 and 19. They have rightly realized that US policy of aggression is the direct cause of all the scourge of the South Vietnamese people. The coming elections will be but an attempt to vamp up the Thieu bellicose regime. It is one of the major objectives of "Vietnamization." At a recent press conference, Nixon admitted this when he tried to plead for the one horse-race in Saigon and promised continued aid to Nguyen Van Thieu. Consequently the movement for a democratic election is closely linked to that for peace and national independence whose most articulate slogan is directed against militarization of schools and against conscription. A peak in it was reached with the demonstrations of tens of thousands of students and other strata of the Saigon and Hue people and the funerals of the student casualties of military training. At present a dozen Saigonese students are staging a hunger strike in protest against the militarization of educational establishments. In addition, the movement against induction is now smouldering now flaring up among the youth, students and people of all walks of life, including Saigon soldiers, security troops and civil guards...

As one of the most important goals of "Vietnamization" is to reorganize the client army and administration, the popular protest has caused a great deal of alarm and difficulties to the enemy busily engaged in beating up troops to strengthen the Saigon army into one capable of shouldering the war burden left by the GIs.

Another aspect of "Vietnamization" is to rehabilitate and stabilize the economy and finance of the Saigon administration. This also is an important end which must be achieved to lighten the US finances. Over these last few years, especially in the crucial years of "Vietnamization," the Thieu administration has instituted a series of taxes to milk the South Vietnamese dry. These predatory measures have touched off a campaign against exploitation and robbery and for the improvement of the people's living conditions, a campaign waged not only by the workers and toiling people, but also by the intelligentsia, civil servants and businessmen. This agitation has shaken the mainstay of "Vietnamization" still in its early stage.

It is obvious that this neo-colonialist strategy is under fire from all sides. The watchwords against lay offs, austerity taxes, taxes on wages, repression and terror, induction, militarization of school, murders by GIs, election frauds and war prolongation, and for wagelift, have inspired the onslaught of the townspeople on the military, political and economic planes.

WITH a sound guidance, it has been unfolding under most variegated and effective forms including factory strikes, demonstrations and meetings, teach-ins, such activities as "listening to the people" and "talking to the people" carried out by students, intellectuals and religious followers, hunger strikes of Buddhist students, self-immolation of Saigon army invalids and Catholics, burning of electoral cards. In this movement, there have emerged new organizations which can rally a great number of people from various social classes, political and religious tendencies, including Saigon MPs and militarymen.

Despite a white terror the movement is in close coordination with the actions for the people's rights, democracy, national rights and peace. They take place simultaneously in various towns and cities, help and complete one another. Truly, current effervescence is highly indicative of the patriotism of the people and their hatred for the US and Thieu, the spearhead of which is against the US "Vietnamization" policy.

It clearly shows the aggressiveness of the townspeople, their sense of responsibility and their resolve to cope with the danger looming over the Fatherland. The reactions taken against the frenzied moves of the aggressors and their quislings testify to the high degree of application of revolutionary heroism in Viet Nam, the "nothing is more precious than independence and freedom" spirit, the indomitable tradition of the Nam Bo resistance-day as well as the rapid growth of the PLAF and maturity in struggle and the great initiative of the revolutionary method. The South Viet Nam towns-people have a deep insight into the

(Continued page 2)

Nixon, Hands Off South Viet Nam

IN his September 17, 1971 press conference, Mr Nixon presented a plea for the Thieu October 3 one-man race, and gave assurances of his continued military and economic aid to this client of his.

Despite all his antics to look impartial, nobody is unaware that the US President is the actual author of the current tragi-comedy in Saigon. His statements can be read into as expressions of his intention to hang on to the willing tool of Vietnamization, the arch traitor Nguyen Van Thieu. No man still in his senses regards elections in Saigon as democratic processes which are nothing short of crude farces whose outcome has been decided beforehand in Washington. Lately, Bunker had a hectic time, shuttling between Thieu, Ky and Minh, because the White House wanted to put a democratic face on the forthcoming "presidential election" by giving a rival to its favourite. When Minh made clear his desire to run, the playboy "vice-president" was disqualified by the "Supreme Court," and when the former walked out, the ruling against the latter was reversed for the risk with two dark horses would be too great. When both withdrew, the US proconsul dangled before them the "stick and carrot," to no avail. The trick was a bit too transparent but poor "Old man refrigerator" could not help it, he only did what his boss had told him to. The humiliation was not his but his master's, that of the very "Vietnamization" policy.

People did not wait until September 17, 1971 to realize what was at the back of the US Chief Executive's head. His utterances on that day were only an admission of his failure in staging a "contested" election and reaffirmation of his will to continue Thieu in office even without a semblance of democracy. They were at the same time an intolerable challenge to the South Vietnamese and American peoples' intent on having the present Saigon ruler removed and the GI's brought home.

The wave of urban unrest which has been disturbing the cities of South Viet Nam and particularly Saigon for the same purposes has proved to be a violent offensive on US "Vietnamization" and helped rock the Saigon rule to its foundations. It has been spearheaded against Thieu not only because of his cruelty and totalitarianism but because he is the impersonation of war and instigator of bloodbaths and because he is a US pliant satrap. It has been directed against the US not only because of GI's running their cars over civilians, looting, raping etc... but because Uncle Sam has been poking his nose into the South Vietnamese people's private business. A fresh proof of this meddling has been supplied by Mr Nixon's latest interview with newsmen. With democracy, he cynically takes great liberties by having elections shamelessly doctored by his chief agent in the "Independence Palace." For the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, he shows very little regard, by trying to make them play the role of extras in too apparent a hoax. When he asserted that South Viet Nam would need many more generations to become a real democracy he let out the cloven hoof and betrayed his infamous racist outlook.'

America's tradition of democracy and freedom has been made light of by Mr Nixon and not a few of his predecessors. He is not at all entitled to prattle on US democracy when US troops are riding roughshod over a small nation unprovokedly, when notorious butchers like Calley are acquitted, when Bobby Seal, Angela Davis and a host of other freedom and peace militants are languishing in jail, when right in the US My Lai massacres are taking place.

It is common knowledge that in the northern half of Viet Nam which was nearly four thousand years old, democracy has been enforced for more than a quarter of a century. In its southern part, in the liberated areas, it is being translated into a reality. The citizens are free to elect their genuine representatives to various levels of the administration and legislature. For years, the highest democratic right in an agricultural country, land ownership for the peasants, has been implemented. In the meantime, the US-installed regime in Saigon is only an "instrument of a foreign power" as described by the local press, or a "coffle of slaves," as Nguyen Cao Ky has put it. There is not the slightest doubt that under such a rule, democracy is inconceivable.

Genuine democracy must go together with genuine independence, freedom and peace. It requires that Mr Nixon mind his own business and leave the South Vietnamese people's affairs alone. It calls for the total withdrawal of US troops, an end to Vietnamization, replacement of traitor Nguyen Van Thieu. It is a necessity that defies all schemes and tricks of Mr Nixon.

THIEN LY

An indictment of arch traitor Nguyen Van Thieu

II. MORE BLOOD-THIRSTY THAN HITLER

The crimes perpetrated by Nguyen Van Thieu and his American bosses in the past four years have outstripped the most savage ones committed by the Hitlerite fascists formerly. If during World War Two, there was only one Oradour in France and one Lidice in Czechoslovakia, now in South Viet Nam with his "kill all, burn all, destroy all" tactics, there have been countless Oradours and Lidices in all parts, from Quang Tri to Point of Ca Mau, from the High Plateaux to the Mekong Delta in the cities as well as the countryside. Not a day has passed, without raids, arson and killings taking place. US bombs, noxious chemicals and poisonous gases have been unceasingly dropped on South Viet Nam. Especially, Thieu has boosted "mop-up" operations from battalion-size upwards, from 40, 50 a month in 1969 to 70, 80 at present. The US and Thieu administration have also conducted "pacification" actions lasting several months, such as those in U Minh jungle area, in Ca Mau and Rach Gia provinces, those with tens of thousands of troops, such as in Ba Lang An (Quang Ngai), Dau Tieng (Thu Dau Mot), Mo Cay (Ben Tre)...

In less than four years in the presidency, in Ben Tre, An Giang, Kien Tuong and Soc Trang provinces alone (in the Mekong Delta), Thieu has mounted a total of more than 24,600 sweeps big or small, slain or arrested over 57,500 people, and reduced to ashes 45,670 houses, temples, holy sees... In some districts like Minh Trung (Quang Ngai), he has launched over 500 raids, which have taken a toll of more than 2,000...

With most savage US lethal means banned by international law such as steel-pellet, napalm and phosphorous bombs, poisonous chemicals, big-size gas bombs and B-52 strategic bombers, Thieu has been wreaking death and destruction on villages in South Viet Nam.

The Son My massacre was one of the typical products of Thieu's "three all" policy. Within a few hours on March 16, 1968, the American monsters went mad, as reported by Western press, and after using explosives against the people's shelters, they opened fire and shot dead more than 500 civilians, all of them old folks, women and children.

The Son My atrocity when brought to light greatly stirred world opinion and tormented American conscience. Progressive mankind was indignantly horrified by such a heinous crime. Meanwhile, Thieu seemingly deprived of all human conscience and feeling, completely unmoved by the Vietnamese blood in his veins impudently pleaded for his American bosses' undefensible offences which their authors had to admit before the tribunal of public opinion. He brazenly claimed that there was not any mass-murder by the American troops in Son My... Only some 20 civilians were inadvertently killed by bombs and shells." And he described them as "ordinary victims of the war." According to *AP*, such allegations made an American in Saigon exclaim that they (Thieu — *Ed.*) sought to whitewash US crimes, but the US never wanted them to. They now really are US servants.

But Son My — the Vietnamese Oradour — was not an isolated case. Only shortly after the Son My mass-slaughter, the Pak Jung Hi troops, in the GIs' wake, mowed down 734 civilians in Dien Ban, Duy Xuyen, Hoi An (Quang Nam), and ever since hundreds and thousands of new Son My — type Oradours have occurred in Ba Lang An (Quang Ngai), Kong H'ring (Kontum) in Rach Gia, Ca Mau, Ben Tre, Long An...

Thieu has also been applying the "burn all, destroy all, kill all" method right in the heart of cities. In the first 10 days of Mau Than Spring (1968) alone, greatly scared by the South Vietnamese army and people's general offensive and uprisings, the US-Thieu clique rained bombs and completely levelled many populated areas in 130 cities province and district capitals, among them Saigon, Hue, Can Tho, Da Lat, Ben Tre and My Tho. Many districts of Saigon were attacked by US aircraft, artillery and armoured vehicles with thousands of houses in Hang Xanh, An Quang Pagodas, Thiec Market, Ly Nam De, Hai Ba Trung, Y Bridge street quarters... destroyed, hundreds of thousands of people made homeless. Hue, an ancient city and our people's pride, was also devastated. Pham Van Khoa, Governor of Thua Thien and Mayor of Hue had to report Thieu that "2,500 civilians were killed, 1,200 others wounded..., 70 per cent of the houses and 80 per cent of the people's property was destroyed."

The Thieu clique not only get at South Vietnamese with bombs and shells in extremely bloody massacres like at Son My, Ba Lang An, Kong H'ring... but also resort to forms of terror more savage than in the Middle Ages against patriots fighting for their people's independence and peace now being detained in various prisons. It is impossible to list all the prisons built by Thieu in South Viet Nam and the number of their inmates. Not only in Con Son jail, are there "tiger cages," a most horrible form of torture which has deeply shocked all the men of conscience the world over. In defiance of the people's opposition at home and abroad, Thieu recently begged for 40,000 more dollars from his bosses to build fresh "tiger cages."

The three biggest massacres staged by the US-Thieu clique in various prisons in 1969 were the slaying with machine guns and hand-grenades of 800 detainees massed in Camp 6's yard of Con Dao prison, that of nearly 100 prisoners with mines in Tuy Ninh jail and the brutalities against 1,400 women patriots held in Thu Duc prison, killing over 200 of them.

(*To be continued*)

Political whirlwind

(*Continued from page 1*)

situation, a clear understanding of themselves and their foes; they are aware of the balance of forces in the field; knowing how to improve the opportunity, they fight in a creative and intelligent manner, march steadily forward to their ultimate triumph.

WITH its powerful development, the towsfolk's movement is at present a remarkable contribution to the fight against the US and for national salvation; it is a staggering blow dealt at the political aspect of the "Vietnamization" plan. Brought to a head, it clearly reflects the losing posture and isolation of the enemy. It is the inevitable outcome of their heavy militay setbacks in the first nine months of this year.

Never has the anti-US and anti-Thieu feeling mounted so high in Saigon and other towns and cities as it is today. Never has the aggressiveness of the US imperialists, the world policemen and arch enemy of the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples, been exposed in its true light as it is today. It was really humiliating for the US that a candidate to the Saigon "Lower House" put Hitler's moustache on a effigy of Nixon and that "MPs" demonstrated and chanted: "Down with Thieu!", "Down with the US aggressors!"

There is no denying that the US imperialists and Nguyen Van Thieu are on the wane and more estranged from the masses than ever, and that the agitation in South Viet Nam towns and cities is in a more favourable condition to develop. Solidarity and singleness of purpose is the source of all strength and the key to success. The South Viet Nam towns people are bound to each other by a broad unity; they have splitted and isolated the enemy ranks to the highest degree, and have been stepping up their fight for the right to live, democracy national rights and peace. Together with the rest of their fellow conntrymen in South Viet Nam, they are resolved to drive out the Yankees and topple the quislings to live up to their reputation as citizens of the "Brass wall of the Fatherland."

SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE

The Successful Resistance in U MINH

THE large-scale and protracted US-Saigon "pacification" operation in U Minh launched in December last is marking time. This is the third sweep within 16 months against that "Viet Cong sanctuary". "Operation U Minh" involved many crack units of the Saigon army. But, after heavy losses in manpower and war means, the enemy had to end its first phase in April 1971.

However, since mid May they have embarked on a second phase. A regiment of the 9th division and a task force have been brought in to reinforce the 21st division. They have been concentrating their efforts on a number of objectives, especially along the Thoi Binh river to consolidate their foothold and cope with the guerilla movement.

The enemy control was shattered by big chunks ; their hardcore units suffered heavy losses. According to still incomplete figures, after 80 days and nights of sustained combat from May 15 to August 5, the U Minh armed forces and people put out of action over 3,000 adverse men (including 100 officers), wrote off or whittled down 2 battalions, 19 companies, blotted out or seriously damaged over 30 military subsectors and posts, downed or set on fire 40 planes, sank or damaged 30 naval craft, and wrecked tens of ordnance pieces.

The US-Saigon forces in mid-September 1971 have received repeated crushing blows in the U Minh area. On September 16, the PLAF conducted simultaneous onslaughts on enemy positions, the fiercest one being directed against the Bien Nhi base where mixed forces of Saigon infantry, artillery and armoured cars were stationed near the coastal area west of the U Minh forest. *UPI* reported that the figures of Saigon troops wiped out in these attacks were "the highest since the 5-day clash in Snuol" last May, and that "the losses were the heaviest in a single fighting day" as from the operation in Southern Laos last February. Striking at the enemy mobile forces, and shattering a considerable quantity of his manpower and means of war have been remarkable feats of the people and army of the U Minh area at the moment when the US tries hard to prop up Saigon troops after the latter's bloody routs in South Viet Nam, Southern Laos and Northeastern Cambodia during the recent dry season.

PLAF before setting out for an attack

Nonetheless, as they were scattered on all battlefields and driven onto the defensive after the first phase, the US-Saigon troops will not be able in spite of all their huge numbers, vicious methods and limited objectives to extricate themselves from their morass.

Right in the first days of the second phase, in Xeo Ro which the Thieu clique claimed had been "already pacified", the 14th regiment of the 9th division received a pre-emptive raid: 160 dead, one battalion badly mauled, then a series of posts assaulted and the military subsector erased. In other places, the coercive apparatus was destroyed: as soon as the enemy landed they came under fire and were encircled; tens of posts, blockhouses were razed. Both the main forces and the special forces took severe beatings. Song Doc town, the den of the "pacification" agents and spies was also overrun. Hundreds of thugs were punished, many "civilian defence organizations" — were broken up. The U Minh outskirts, a "pacification" target—was worst hit.

Although they had failed in the first phase of the operation, the enemy again struck at the same objectives. For them U Minh is the "Viet Cong Headquarters," a sword poised behind their backs... By attacking U Minh, the US-Saigon Command hoped to forestal big blows from the Liberation troops, weaken the revolutionary forces on a vast area of Nam Bo and consolidate their defence perimeter. Like their hope to "pacify" the liberated zone, their objectives for this military operation were unattained.

Since the start, the U Minh armed forces and people have been unceasingly and successfully counter-attacking, and have destroyed a considerable amount of manpower and war means. From December 1970 to August 5, 1971, they put out of action **11,000** enemy troops, wiped out or badly mauled **12** CP's of combat team and regiment, **7** battalions, **40** companies, **10** pacification teams, levelled or heavily devastated **65** positions, subsectors, storages, posts and bunkers, downed and damaged over **100** aircraft, sank and set afire **162** naval craft, knocked out of commission **40** armoured cars, **50** ordnance pieces. This was an outstanding feat at a time when the Americans were striving to strengthen their client army. *AP* revealed on May 20 that the South Vietnamese troops (21st division) had been badly battered in U Minh East despite air and artillery support. Most indicative of their low morale were desertions and cases of disobedience in the 21st division. Whole battalions ignored marching orders. Some protesters killed their commanders right at the front, or did away with their officers by planting mines at their CP's. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd battalions of the 33rd regiment refused to board helicopters bound for the front, then 310 among them went over the hill. Of the 800 men sent to bring up to strength the 31st and 33rd regiments, 500 disappeared. In the first phase of the drive, the 21st division lost 3,000 men, some battalions having only 60 or 70 troops left. In the second phase, the morale of this division collapsed under the repeated assaults of the U Minh armed forces and people.

Mutinies and desertions have been on the upgrade. Within one month, hundreds of soldiers in the 32nd and 33rd regiments were reported awol. The task forces and the 14th regiment of the 9th division newly brought in took so severe a punishment that they could not give support to the 21st division nor back the coercive apparatus.

Coupling combat with persuasion work among the adverse ranks, the U Minh armed forces and people have been aggravating the loss of combativity of the enemy.

WITH the help of the liberation armed forces, the population in the outskirts of U Minh-key area of the enemy's current pacification — rose up in over 30 "strategic hamlets" and "resettlement centres," wiped out or depleted a big part of the "pacification" forces: 200 bullies, spies, "pacification" agents were disposed of or re-educated, 800 "civil defence" members talked into breaking away. US-Saigon petrol and phosphorus bombs, chemical toxics used for clearing U Minh forest have proved ineffective in pacifying this area. Their continual "mop-ups" in the U Minh outskirts have only spelled out their difficulties and failures.

On June 20, *AFP* already remarked: "Their brutal methods have brought no result to pacification."

In addition to their successful resistance to the enemy sweeps, the movement against draft and herding of the population has been also very **fruitful.**

Guerilla warfare has been vigorously developing everywhere. The guerillas use home-made weapons, devise new fighting methods, stick to their villages and help the population regain control. There is every sign that the U Minh armed forces and people will keep up their fight in all fields, and that prolongation of the campaign will only bring more stinging setbacks to the enemy.

THANH HONG

Carrying ammunition to the battlefield

URBAN UNREST GROWS

ACTIONS of the city folks against US-Thieu election frauds, for peace, independence and better living conditions and democracy have been on the rise.

They first erupted when Thieu manipulated the Saigon Parliament into endorsing an undemocratic presidential-election law. They have since developed into a broad front encompassing virtually all social segments: workers, students, teachers, lawyers, doctors, writers, journalists, Buddhist, Christian, Cao Dai and Hoa Hao believers, many MPs, war wounded, officers and men of the Saigon army. Nguyen Cao Ky — the regime's No 2 — and retired general Duong Van Minh have also joined the protesting chorus.

The front includes 65 political and other organizations: the People's Front Fighting for Peace, the Women's Movement for the Right to Live, the Students' General Association, the Movement for the People's Right to Self-Determination, the An Quang Buddhists' Organization, the Teachers' General Association, the War Wounded General Association, etc. Large cities like Saigon, Hue, Da Nang and nearly all provincial capitals have their own set-up, each with a different name: Committee against cooked Elections, Committee to Watch the Elections, United Action Committee, and so on. To the same end the "Lower House" and the Senate have their own committees. All the said bodies have been active under programs of action spearheaded against the USA and the Thieu clique. They denounce the former's attempt to maintain Thieu with a view to realizing its Vietnamization policy, i.e continuing its aggressive policy, and the latter's electoral manipulations to keep the exclusive right to serve the Americans. All of them have been pressing for Thieu's resignation to pave the way for "democratic and fair elections."

The protest movement has taken on variegated forms perceptible in market places, restaurants, inns, street corners and bus stations. Anti-US-Thieu leaflets have been distributed in many cities and provincial capitals, and especially in Saigon, Hue and Da Nang they have appeared in profusion right in public places. Anti-election fraud committees have put out manifestoes and declarations exposing irregularities in the recent elections to the "Lower House," foreseeing others in the next presidential race and urging the resignation of US ambassador Bunker and the withdrawal of US troops.

Demonstrations have been staged despite strict banning and security precautions. Since mid-August more than a dozen have occurred in Saigon, Hue, Da Nang, Hoi An, involving well over a hundred thousand students, Buddhists, war wounded of the quisling army: on August 17, a 2000-strong gathering turned into an anti-American parade in the course of the funeral of a war invalid who had burned himself in protest against electoral tricks and for restoration of peace. On September 1, 15,000 university and middle-school students, along with Saigonese of different classes and representatives of 50 opposition organizations, took to the streets in the funeral procession for Pham Hanh, a victim of university militarization, to demand that Thieu resign and Bunker leave Viet Nam. The crowd carried black banners with such white inscriptions as "No electoral frauds", "No University militarization", "With the Thieu rule the bloodshed continue".

POLICE brutalities, kidnapping and jailing have been unable to curb the student trepidation. The students, especially in Saigon, Hue and Can Tho, have been actively carrying on their "pre-election" and "Speak to our Fellow Countrymen" campaigns, and distributing pamphlets on "Thieu's 34 tricks." 200 shock detachments have been sent to urban districts and the countryside to record the people's desiderata.

In Hue, 10,000 students and civilians took part in the funeral of Dang Duy overrun by an American car on August 16. The former carried their comrade's coffin and token ones bearing the inscription: 25 years of War. The gatherers burnt Nixon and Thieu in effigy.

In Saigon, in the first ten days of August, over 100 youth and student groups participated in the "Speak to our Fellow-Countrymen" campaign. 20 effigies of Thieu with a death sentence and the caption: "No food, no clothing, no home" were erected at busy street corners.

The Students' General Association launched an intensive onslaught on September 13 against the Thieu-Huong ticket. A spokesman stated: "The October 3 election day will be the most disgraceful date in Viet Nam's history."

Thieu-Huong's portraits on election posters were crossed and inscribed with this caption: "If you want peace in slavery, freedom for the Americans (to do what they like—*Ed.*) and welfare and happiness for Thieu-Huong's families, vote for the "people-cursed" ticket. Thieu-Huong's DAN CHU (democracy) motto was changed into DAN CHUI (cursed by the people).

On September 12, students distributed anti-American leaflets, burned American-owned cars in front of the US Embassy and splashed its fences with red paint; the demonstrators displayed anti-US-Thieu slogans: "Down with Bunker," "US go home", "Down with Nguyen Van Thieu, the traitor who's sold our Fatherland." A "strike at US cars and US troops" drive has been initiated against GIs.

It has spread to Hue after an American soldier shot a student to death and wounded another three. Students and citizens assembled and marched to the AID mission building where they chanted anti-US-Thieu slogans and set on fire an American automobile. Frightened by the popular explosion, the local US command ordered the city out of bounds to US cars and the 10,000 US troops and personnel should be confined in their quarters.

Braving victimization, seizures, prosecution and fines, Saigon newspapers have been keeping the population informed of and commenting on, the agitation against the US—Thieu cooked elections. They have stigmatized the crack down on opposition parties and organizations, and published articles by opposition candidates. Wrote *Tin Sang* on August 7: "For many months now, Mr Thieu has been resorting to every trick to get re-elected... But his return will bring tears to our countrymen, sufferings to orphans and widows, frustration to the youth and misery to our country." *Thoi Dai Moi* of September 3 said "The US has given dictator Nguyen Van Thieu a fraud-devising machine to use on election day," and remarked that by asking the people to make "sacrifices" and to "rally" behind him, he just "tries to catch the moon at the bottom of the sea."

Woman delegate burning election cards in the September 18 anti US-Thieu parade in front of An Quang Pagoda

THE fact that Thieu has been using his power to the utmost to overcome the opposition factions, place his men in the Lower House and make his presidential seat secure, has triggered vigorous reaction from political parties, religious communities and members of Parliament.

The An Quang Buddhist Institute Council, in a statement sent directly to him, asked Thieu to give up his intention to run alone, amend the electoral law and set up a watch-dog committee.

According to *AFP* (Saigon, Sept. 14), a number of Christian organizations which had so far supported Thieu, launched an appeal for the boycott of the October 3 election. On September 14, in the morning, a 100-man delegation of the Christian Movement for Peace and National-Union forces burned some 50 election cards, and election posters. In a declaration dated September 5, the Women's Movement for the Right to Live pointed out: "All through his years in office Thieu has had only one policy, that of terror; he has suppressed patriots and opposition members, and jailed hundreds and thousands of active peace fighters... This has thrown a strong light on Mr Thieu's thirst for power and position, and his extremely dictatorial and warlike behaviour."

The afore-mentioned organizations denounced electoral tricks and urged Washington to "end too transparent a farce which stains the United States democratic tradition and a neo-colonialist policy which has met with a fiasco."

Immediately after Thieu made public on TV his decision to stand alone, 12 Saigon organizations and well-known MPs like Ngo Cong Duc and Ho Ngoc Nhuan issued a joint declaration scoring Thieu's move as "unconstitutional and "undemocratic" and urging his resignation.

Other members of the "Lower House" raised thei voices in protest. Ly Quy Chung declared to the press that "many disturbances will ensue if Thieu doesn't change his mind" and that many of his fellow MPs would "oppose Thieu to the hilt" and seek the invalidation of his re-election by the Saigon National Assembly. Ly Quy Chung proposed that the October elections be postponed, the current electoral law amended and a new one drafted. Tran Van Tuyen charged that Thieu "is bent on going ahead with the comedy" which is a "stupid" one at that. On September 14 the Council of the Senate Committee Chairmen tried to prevail on Thieu not to run alone on October 3 and let it be known that the senators would not go to the polls if he did not listen to them. All social segments and political parties have been in effervescence. This is part and parcel of the crisis generated by the US Vietnamization policy. The more odurately Nixon' clings to Thieu and the latter sticks to his stupid decision, the higher will rise the waves of protest which will engulf him in the whirlpool of defeat.

NIEN NGUYEN

OUR PEOPLE AND THE PRG PEACE OFFER

The 7-point peace initiative of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam continues to enjoy warm support from people of all walks of life in the cities as well as in the countryside of South Viet Nam.

Meetings have been held in all provinces to discuss or acclaim the offer. In My Tho alone, more than 70,000 people took part in such gatherings last July and August. In many places, people stirringly stepped up activities in all fields as an effective response to the peace offer.

Millions of Buddhist believers were also among those actively backing it. The Patriotic Bonzes Solidarity Association in Rach Gia province pointed out in a statement that "if the US imperialists obdurately ignore the PRG peace initiative full of goodwill, all the bonzes and nuns and 60,000 people of Khmer nationality will strengthen their unity with people of other strata and fight to the end for freedom, independence and national reunification. The Congress of Cao Dai dignitaries and believers in Kien Phong province unanimously held that to end the war and restore peace, the US government must withdraw all American and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, and respect the Vietnamese people's right to self-determination as proposed by Madame Nguyen Thi Binh.

People throughout South Viet Nam have also scored the US for deliberately dodging a serious response to the PRG overture, causing the stalemate of the Paris Conference to continue. Criticizing the US delegate's attitude, the Saigon daily *Tin Sang* (Morning News) said on July 31: "Nothing is more ludicrous than the fact that after two years of a search for a solution to restore peace, the US side is still shuffling and prevaricating and putting forward the same proposals as 2 years ago so as to avoid responding to the other side's 7-point peace move. This proves US confusion and lack of legal and moral grounds to cope with the other side's proposals which everybody regards as reasonable."

The suggested formation of a national concord government in South Viet Nam to enter into negotiations with the PRG has been applauded by people of all social sections. As the Saigon presidential election is drawing near, "Committees Against Election Frauds" of every class have become ever more active. Their members have been sent to all parts of South Viet Nam to distribute leaflets denouncing Thieu as a warmonger who has been striving to run alone for the presidency to keep the monopoly of serving the US. They have also bared Thieu's "four nays" position whose essence is to prolong the war and inflict more sufferings on the people. The leaflets demand that Thieu resign, that the US abstain from interference in the Vietnamese people's internal affairs, and let the South Vietnamese people freely establish in Saigon a new government favouring peace, independence and democracy and accepting the PRG 7-point peace program. Several Saigon war veterans have set fire to themselves to press for Thieu's resignation.

Election posters for Thieu - Huong stained by students. Thieu-Huong effigies marked with crosses and their "Democracy" watchword changed into "Cursed by the people"

the KHAN RAN

Madame Nguyen Thi Binh kerchiefed envoy in London

THE *Khan Ran* *, is part of the everyday wear of the South Vietnamese. Made of very soft cloth, it is decorated with tiny black and white squares. It is a simple piece of clothing of variegated use: it is a scarf, a muffler, a towel, a shawl, a cover rolled into one. It is inexpensive and strong. But what is most appreciable about it is its long association with the revolutionary militants who leave their footprints on all roads, paths, lanes and tracks of South Viet Nam.

In the countryside, women old and young like it for its plainness, prettiness and familiarity. Men also have it at hand when doing field work, because of its convenience.

Still fresh in our minds are the memories of the "August days of nascent autumn" of 1945, when all to a man, the farmers of South Viet Nam were rising up and marching on cities to seize power from the Japanese fascists and French colonialists: streams of people carrying golden-starred red flags, their waists girded with a *Khan Ran* holding daggers and scimitars, their hearts filled with the same mettle as their ancesters', dauntless in front of foreign aggressors. In the anti-French resistance lasting 9 long years, every one, from the leading revolutionists to the rank and file had the famous square of fabric on him, a symbol of his patriotic attitude.

Less than a month after the August Insurrection, the French staged a come-back, and a series of new names lengthened Nam Bo's roll of heroes. In the heart of Saigon Le Van Tam wrapped in his petrol soaked *Khan Ran* became a living torch which blew up an enemy ammunition dump. In Baria Vo Thi Sau mounted an abortive mine attempt on Vietnamese arch traitors. The teen-age girl was eventually arrested and deported to Poulo Condor Devil's Island to be finally executed. Before the firing squad, she held her head high, wild flowers trimly stuck in her hair, her *Khan Ran* neatly tied around her neck.

Also during the same war, the renowned square of cloth served the purpose of swaddling clothes for babies born right in underground shelters. In the current effort against US aggression, it often is conveniently turned into a hammock for a Liberation lad to sleep in.

During the darkest years of the US-Diem rule, the "long-haired" army of women earned widespread fame with their peaceful marches and demonstrations which looked like moving forests of *Khan Rans*.

The images of sturdy men, their *Khan Ran* heads showing foreheads furowed by frustration and sufferings, disputing every inch of their fields, orchards and house, every grain of rice and every impressed youngster with the enemy are not likely to fade so soon in the minds of the South Vietnamese.

In the pitch dark night of Dong Thap Muoi, a tireless petite woman militant canvassed house after house, hamlet after hamlet, to persuade her fellow-villagers to take part in hundreds of political actions. In all her goings and comings, she never parted with her *Khan Ran*. When in Saigon, the city named after President Ho Chi Minh, a student leader, Le Hong Tu had fallen, his mates gave his nearest girl companion his blood-smeared head cover. This is Nguyen Thi Chau treasure, throughout her transfers from prison to prison where she was put to horrible torture. She carried it with her to the liberated areas, on her trips to many countries in the world where she showed it as an exhibit against US-Saigon monstruous crimes in South Viet Nam.

I know of a woman from the provinces who lost her daughter during a raid. She set off on a long Odyssey in search for her from prison to prison and in the end she found her in a most infamous jail of the quislings. The cold iron bars prevented mother and daughter from embracing each other but could not prevent the former from dabbing the latter's tears and her own with the same *Khan Ran*.

Then came the dawn of day after such a long dark night, then came the simultaneous popular uprisings. The spark which kindled this nationwide conflagration was struck by Mme Nguyen Thi Dinh in her native Ben Tre. The picture of this good-looking middle-aged lady, the first woman deputy Commander-in-Chief in the world, would not be complete without a *Khan Ran* on her black *Ba Ba* jacket.

In December 1960, the National Front for Liberation came into being, with it gold-starred red-blue flag. The *Khan Rans* no longer served as banners for the fighters but have become a sort of insignia for the Front militants.

They became the insignia of Ut Tich, the fighting mother of family, Ta Thi Kieu, the girl guerilla who captured an enemy post in Ben Tre without firing a shot, To Thi Huynh, the woman guerilla commander of Luong Hoa (Tra Vinh), Nguyen Thi Hanh, the teen-age girl guerilla of Long An, famous for her courage and resourcefulness, Vo Thi Mo, a terror to the enemy in the no man's land of Cu Chi and hosts of others.

In the electrifying offensives of Tet 1968, the *Khan Ran* was inseparable from the A.K. gun blazing away from the upper floors of many a building in Saigon, manned by young militia girls.

In May the same year, in the embattled streets of the Ho Chi Minh city an old woman, braving a hail of bullets, dashed after Liberation troops in hot pursuit of the enemy to give them a few rice cakes wrapped in her threadbare head cover. The gesture was of great symbolic significance.

The dramatic progress of her people's effort earned the nation wider recognition and directed Mme Nguyen Thi Binh's steps abroad. For months, the "Viet Cong" envoy became the cynosure of all eyes with her *Khan Ran*, her companion during gruelling years in the resistance areas. It has been travelling with her to scores of capitals like Moscow, London, Budapest, Brussels, Berlin, Beograd, Sofia, Algiers, New Delhi, Colombo, Lusaka... Our friends all over the world have grown accustomed to the sight of this banner of super-human stamina and fortitude of a small nation locked in combat with the most formidable imperialism of all times.

A few years ago, in the world youth gathering in Bulgaria, South Vietnamese delegates' kerchiefs were much sought after by American war protesters as the emblem of a good quarrel.

If in North Viet Nam the rubber tyre sandals have become the attribute of Uncle Ho's disciples, in South Viet Nam it is the *Khan Ran* which distinguishes his fearless followers.

THU HIEN

* *The chequered kerchief.*

The DRVN *in brief*

o DRVN Vice Premiers Nguyen Duy Trinh and Le Thanh Nghi, Viet Nam Workers' Party Secretairies To Huu, Hoang Anh and Nguyen Van Tran have visited flood-stricken areas and given directives for the restoration of agricultural production.

On behalf of the Government and the Party, they commended the population's and cadres' big efforts and urged them to strengthen their solidarity and rapidly do away with the aftermaths of the calamity while carrying on the resistance against US aggression.

o The Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee Secretariat and the DRVN Standing Committee of the Government Council have passed a resolution on the overcoming of the aftermaths of the floods and taken concrete measures to help the population in the hit areas resume normal life. Industrial, trade, construction, food, public health and banking branches have been mobilized for this purpose.

o 350 tons of maize seeds and a lot of bulls, cows, she-and he-buffaloes (mainly draught varieties) have been sent to stricken localites by many state farms (Song Con, Tay Hieu in Nghe An province, Song Boi, Thanh Ha in Hoa Binh province, Thong Nhat in Thanh Hoa province, Phu Son in Vinh Phu province, To Hieu in Son La province...)

Militia and armed police men patrolling sea coasts in Thanh Hoa

Thanh Ha state farm has given accommodations to refugees and ploughed hundreds of hectares of ricefields for neighbouring co-operatives.

o The workers of the Minh Duc Stone Factory in Haiphong have undertaken to produce 50,000 extra cubic metres of stone for flood-stricken areas.

o Under the "Reopen railway traffic as soon as the floods recedes" watchword, the railway department has launched a drive to speed up the repair of locomotives, carriages and restore every activity to normal.

o The Tran Hung Dao Engineering Factory has sent a 50-man team to the Car Parts Producing Factory No 1 to help it restore production, and 400 Diesel draining pumps to the countryside. 3 other teams made up of 20 skilled workmen have been repairing pumps for co-operatives.

o The Hongay Coal Company has initiated a production and thrift emulation drive to help wipe out the aftermaths of the floods. Its cadres and workers have volunteered to increase efficiency (in coal output and navvy work) by 5 per cent. From now till the end of 1971, each person will contribute each month 2 Sundays' overtime allowance to the relief fund.

o 390 students have graduated from the Light Industry College (Departments of Tinned foods, Sweetmeats), Sugar, Foodstuff, Foods, Spirits, Beer, Soft Drinks, Tropical Plants, Essential Oils, Dyeing, Cloth Printing, Paper, Weaving Engineering, Food Processing Engineering...).

o The Nam Thang Brick Factory (of the Hanoi Industrial Department) has succeeded in producing silicate bricks, using the Red River sand in the place of clay from fields and hills, as a result of researches and experiments made by a team of the Hanoi Polytechnics teaching cadres.

Over the past two months, the Nam Thang factory has produced 150,000 silicate bricks and 250 silicate prefabricated wallpanels.

Viet Nam as Seen by Foreign Writers

ON the desk of writer **Ly Van Sam**, Secretary General of the South Viet Nam Liberation Literature and Arts Association, there were 2 books by the same author. The first was **Gruva** and the second **Conversations in Hanoi**. On the flyleaf of the former, a hand-written inscription by the author: *To Viet Nam with admiration and heartfelt friendship from Kiruna miners and myself*- **Sara Lidman** (1). The later's dedication: *Viet Nam, the heart of the world,* followed by no signature.

"Viet Nam, the heart of the world."! This was not the first time she used this phrase in her writings and speeches on Viet Nam," said **Ly Van Sam**, his hand on the inscribed page.

"How can we construe this?," he continued. Does it mean: Viet Nam sends her ardent blood all over the world the way the heart does in the body? Does it mean that the world is breathing in unison and marching in step with Viet Nam? Does it mean that the whole earth is focussing its attention on Viet Nam, centre of progressive mankind's battle? Does it mean that the most fervid feelings of the entire globe are for Viet Nam? Does it mean that Viet Nam has won the hearts of the nations?

I doubt any of those interpretations tally with the author's meaning. We, Vietnamese who are the people concerned, only want to understand her words in this simpler way: Viet Nam enjoys universal affection. The absence of signature may imply that she is not the only writer to think that Viet Nam is the heart of the world. Others have done so like **Raul Valdes Vivo** (Cuba): 'Viet Nam is standing up. It grows up every day, every

minute, every second, after every air raid. As it grows, it becomes more itself, stronger, undauntable, extraordinary. For Viet Nam is the heart of the world.' Another similar view: 'In Viet Nam's behaviour, I see the dawn of the new world, I see a tremendous change in the sentiments and relationship between men. I see in Viet Nam's behaviour the second era of genuine freedom. 1917 witnessed the collapse of capitalism in one sixth of the world. The aura of this first dawn lit up the path to self-liberation of the nations, and subsequent historical developments have shown that the glow from the torch of the Soviet Prometheus has illuminated their hearts. Nowadays history has entrusted the heroic Vietnamese people with the mission not noly of clipping the wings, pulling out the claws of the imperialist eagle but also of crushing its head. Everyone in the world must be aware of his debt of gratitude to the Vietnamese and participate heart and soul in their fight!" So said Spanish surgeon **Follivam.**

Ly Van Sam closed the book, rose to his feet and started walking up and down, his eyes wide open.

"'Viet Nam, you have astonished the whole world', the Swedish woman of letters also has said," he went on. "She has been to many European and African countries. But Viet Nam for her, she said, has been a 'new discovery'." Ten days after her arrival in Viet Nam, she heard another Western writer complain at their hotel Unity in Hanoi: 'Our Vietnamese friends have arranged for me a very light program. I've been here a week but I've had only two interviews with them on combat and production and visited a co-op, a factory and two museums... I don't know how to spend the time.'

'Really!', the author of the "Windmill" retorted. 'With me it is the opposite. I've been here longer than you, and through exactly the same 'items' as you, but I've been hard pressed for time. After an interview with a farmer, or a combatant, after a briefing on the situation, I need a couple of days to meditate, I must work against time and ponder even at night...'

'What has given you so much food for thought?', the man asked.

'I give much thinking to what has made the Vietnamese man as he is. I feel ashamed at the absence of a civilized life like they have here, in the west, where man's ethics only exist on paper. Here they are a living reality, they are part of everyday's life. To my mind, Viet Nam is the most civilized country... and a question is nagging me: why is it so? Why has it got such a great moral strength. I think the US has chosen the right adversary to be worsted by. There is no shame to be outwitted by such an opponent. On the contrary it is an honour.

'You are infatuated with Viet Nam, my dear lady!'

'Yes, I am. And I'm proud of it. And my infatuation for this country and people will never fade. They are contributing to the changing of our too out-dated world, enhancing our morale and culture and giving us lessons on how to behave like men...'

Now, five years after her return from Viet Nam, **Sara** is still wrapped up in it, writing about it, delivering lectures on it, galvanizing the masses to fight for it and to oppose the US. In a letter to a friend, she wrote: 'Thanks to you for having told and shown me what was indispensable to me, a frail skiff, drifting from a place where for 300 years, war and revolution was unknown, to your country. I am only sorry that I was not strong enough to take in all that I heard and saw in your land.' In an article, she confided to her readers: 'In Viet Nam, I felt revive in my heart my faith in man. There I saw men who are real men.' **Sara** does think that Viet Nam is the heart of the world. In this connection British philosopher **Bertrand Russell's** inspiring remark is recalled to mind: 'You are fighters battling for justice in the world, you are constantly showing the whole mankind, men and women, the degree of heroism man can achieve when he sacrifices himself for an exalted ideal.' **Mauriac,** the French Catholic author, stated at the meeting of French intellectuals supporting Viet Nam: 'For the world this is the beginning of a new era. Mankind of tomorrow will be in great debt to Viet Nam of today. Humanity will never forget what Viet Nam has done for it.'

Through a window, we saw on the edge of the forest some female members of a Liberation Dance and Song ensemble, rifles slung across their backs, guitars in their arms, going down to a stream. One of them was humming:

Viet Nam fights in self-defence
And for all of us
It fights so that life blossoms
And blossoms in each man.

Ly Van Sam smiled and said: 'That's a poem by **Sara**. A friendship as fine as a flower.

In ancient Viet Nam, there was a poet over seventy years of age who, with the help of a bamboo walking stick, took a three months' journey on foot to a friend who was marrying his son. His friend apologized: 'I didn't invite you because of the distance and your age. It was really kind of you to come all the same.'

'As we are friends, your family business is also mine. Even though you didn't ask me, I thought I should come to attend this happy occasion. Your house is small, so I can sleep on the verandah. You are short of rice, so I've brought some... Aren't we friends, aren't we fellow poets?'

Such friendship nowadays not only exists but even is widened beyond all borders, into a kind of international obligation. It has taken on a more active significance, that of a common struggle against a common enemy, to build a new society, to shape a new man, and to enrich literature and arts.

(To be continued)

KY PHUONG

(1) *Sketches on Kiruna miners*

Laos 4,300 Enemy troops Wiped Out in 3 Months

According to *KPL*, in the first three months of the rainy season ending last August, the Lao patriots *put out of action more than 4,300 enemy troops including hundreds of Thai mercenaries and many US advisers. Many companies and field officers of the US-paid Vientiane puppet army were killed or wounded.*

The patriotic forces *seized or wrecked nearly 1,200 guns of various kinds and 100 radio-transmitters, destroyed one bridge, sank 2 motor-boats, gutted 14 military vehicles, shot down 26 aircraft and damaged many others, and c ptured a large quantity of war supplies.*

In the *Plain of Jars — Xieng Khoang area*, the patriotic armed forces counter-attacked a US commanded "leap-frogging" operation involving more than 30 battalions of Vang Pao "special forces" and Thai mercenaries and with intensive support from the USAF. From June 15 to late August the patriotic forces put out of action over 2,000 enemy troops, seized hundreds of guns, and shot down dozens of aircraft.

In *Southern Laos*, the patriotic forces at Dong Hen and Pha Lan (Savannakhet) and Paksong (Saravane) hurled back all prongs of attack of the 30th and 31st mobile regiments (GM. 30 and 31) and dozens of battalions of the Vientiane puppet army and Thai mercenaries, foiling the enemy' scheme to nibble at the liberated zone. Nearly 2,000 enemy troops were put out of action, and several hundred guns captured.

Meanwhile, the regional forces and guerillas in *Udomsay, Luang Prabang, Sam Neua, Phongsaly, Vientiane, Borikhamsay, Kham Muon and Luong Nam Tha provinces* have played an active part in annihilating the enemy and defending the liberated zone. As a result, in the period under review, they swept out many bandit nests, killed or wounded hundreds of bandits, and knocked down all groups of spy-commandos smuggled into the liberated zone for sabotage activities.

US SEVERE SETBACKS IN PAKSONG

REFUSING to learn a lesson from their lamentable defeat in Ban Nhich—Y Tou area in early June this year, the US imperialists have paid dearly for their recent reckless military ventures in the Bolovens Plateaux, more particularly in Paksong area, the area is being an "ideal base" for them to widen their aggression against the Indochinese countries.

After preparing public opinion and making probes into this region for nearly two months, last July 28 the US and its henchmen helilifted three commando battalions to Saravane town area. They also deployed their forces in the direction of Noong Boua, Northeast of Paksong. At the same time, they hurled some 10 battalions into strike at Ban Nhich and Y Tou area (West of Paksong), while a big contingent of puppet troops were sent to the surroundings of Paksong township.

But all their attacking prongs were broken. Meeting stiff resistance from the Lao patriotic forces, four "special forces" battalions had to retreat from Neong Boua. Meanwhile over 100 enemy troops were put out of action at Ban Nhich—Y Tou in the five days ending August 2.

On August 2 and 10, as soon as the enemy reached the vicinity of Paksong, they fell into ambushes laid by the Lao patriotic forces and lost close to 100 men.

On August 16, all elements of enemy troops West and Northwest of Paksong were badly battered. Following up this fresh gain, two days later, the Liberation Armed Forces powerfully assaulted 4 enemy battalions West Paksong. According to initial reports, 100 enemy troops were knocked out, 2 aircraft shot down, and 4 military vehicles full of ammunition seized or destroyed.

In their coordinated fight, the regional forces and guerillas captured or wiped out many groups of spies, and helped chase the enemy from the vicinity of Paksong.

In the past two months, the patriotic forces and people in Saravane and on the Bolovens Plateaux have been responsible for more than 1,500 enemy casualties. They are now pursuing the remnants. So the firm resolve of the patriots in this vast region and their military successes as well as those won in Xieng Khoang—Plain of Jars in Savannakhet and other parts of the country have foiled "all calculations of the US and its henchmen in their current rainy season counter - offensive."

Cambodia

INITIAL SETBACKS OF OPERATION "TCHENLA II"

THE Phnom Penh authorities launched on August 20, 1971 a large scale raid codenamed "Tchenla II" to clear Highway 6 and encroach upon the liberated zone, *AKI* reported.

Despite a huge force of about 15,000 troops including 30 infantry battalions, a squadron of M 113 armoured vehicles, two squadrons of M 24 tanks and French AR M-8 armoured vehicles and a big number of artillery and engineering units, the raiders sustained heavy losses.

On August 21, the CNLAF violently intercepted the 2 nd Infantry Brigade in An dong Per, about 12 km North of Taing Kauk and decimated 3 battalions, put out of action several armoured vehicles. On August 23 and 24, two other battalions which encroached upon the region were also badly mauled.

On September 2, the Cambodian patriotic forces thwarted an enemy assault North of Kompong Thmar, knocking out more than 200 men and 5 war vessels.

Meanwhile, in coordinated actions with the regulars, the regional forces, guerillas and the people have been repeatedly assaulting many enemy positions and cutting Highway number 6 into many portions, which has sealed off the puppet forces' traffic and caused many difficulties to the enemy supply.

On September 8, the CNLAF completely beat off an assault by 2 adverse battalions on Stung Sen river and Highway 6, South of Kompong Thom province, inflicting on them some 30 casualties. Two days later in another rush on the enemy encampment 5 km South East of Kompong Thmar province, the liberation forces heavily decimated Battalions 40 and 49 of Brigade One, killing or wounding about 200 men and capturing many others.

In other places, the CNLAF activities also wreaked many losses on the adversary.

The regional forces overran on August 25 an outpost in Koh Kong and put out of action 150 Phnom Penh troops.

In their 25 minute attacks on August 26 on the military sector H.Q in Tuk Meas 40 km East North East of Kampot, the patriotic forces put out of combat more than 200 enemy soldiers.

On September 10, they wiped out an enemy company and decimated another in Taches, on Highway 5, some 50 km North East of Phnom Penh.

The Mozambique People's *Steady Advances*

ON September 25, 1964, from East Africa the Mozambique Liberation Front condemned in stern words the Portuguese colonialist regime and called on the Mozambique people to rise up and liberate their country.

"It is time for the Mozambique people to rise up and use every means available to wrest back their right to live.

On behalf of all their fellow-countrymen at home and abroad, FRELIMO solemnly initiates the entire Mozambique people's general armed insurrection against the Portuguese colonialist rule, for complete independence. Our struggle will stop only when the Portuguese colonialist regime no longer exists."

The appeal has since been resounding like a clarion call urging the Mozambique people to take up arms in a long and hard fight for independence and till final victory.

Starting with a nucleus of 250 guerillas armed with rudimentary weapons, the movement has been swelling its ranks with thousands of fighters scattered in many provinces such as Cabo Delgado, Niassa, Tete, Zambezia, Moçambique and spreading throughout the country.

Equipped with weapons captured from the enemy and at the beginning sporadic engagements inflicting few adverse casualties, the Mozambique patriotic armed forces are now well armed enough to wage thousands of battles big and small, whittle down and wipe out tens of thousands of adverse men, and liberate large areas.

Right in the first 3 years of the resistance war, they killed or wounded more than 5,000 enemy troops, shot down many aicraft and destroyed over 400 military vehicles. The most outstanding exploit recorded in 1968 was the attack against the airport in North Cabo Delgado, which wrecked 12 out of the 13 adverse aircraft in the airport, exploded an ammunition dump and set the base on fire. In the first months of this year, they knocked out over 350 Portuguese troops, destroyed 73 military vehicles, captured a big quantity of arms and ammunition and other war materials, liberated 113 patriots detained by the adversary and forced the latter to withdraw from a number of important positions in Cabo Delgado.

The above-mentioned successes have spelled out the new expansion of the Mozambique people's liberation movement. The zone under the Mozambique patriotic armed forces and people's control has been widened. There, people's power has been set up and strengthened day by day.

The Mozambique people who are fighting while increasing production are now shaping a really new life. Many medical establishments have been built. Tens of thousands of pupils are attending school.

Alarmed by such great comprehensive achievements of the Mozambique people, the Portuguese colonialists, encouraged and assisted by the imperialists in the US-headed NATO aggressive bloc, have shown more and more clearly their stubborn and warlike nature. They have been striving to boost their build-up, erecting more military bases, intensifying raids, shellings and plundering, and perpetrating innumerable crimes with a view to breaking the Mozambique people's morale. They have also joined hands with the racists in South Africa and Zimbabwee to check the national liberation movement there. But all their efforts have met with failure. They have been unable to stem the African people's mounting drive for independence and freedom and particularly the Mozambique people's national liberation movement.

STANDING in the same front against imperialism and new and old colonialism, for national liberation, the South Vietnamese people have been following the Mozambique people's armed struggle with warm sympathy and deep admiration. For over one fourth of a century now, they have been holding firm their guns, constantly attacking, overcoming countless hardships and trials to wrest back national independence and freedom. They have been in a better position to realize the imperialists and colonialists' brutal and machiavellian nature and to appreciate the Mozambique people's valiant effort in the past 7 years, full of hardships and sacrifices but also of glorious gains. On the International Day for Solidarity with the Mozambique people's struggle, the South Vietnamese people warmly praise the latter's achievements as a valuable encouragement for their own resistance against the US aggressors, for national salvation.

They will never cease identifying themselves with the Mozambique people's national liberation battle and demanding that the Portuguese colonialists quit Mozambique and recognize the Mozambique people's independence.

Firmly believing in the strength of their solidarity, and keeping up their persistent and long struggle, assisted and supported by the world peoples, the Mozambique people will surely win complete victory.

PHAN HUU

MINISTER NGUYEN THI BINH VISITS POLAND

Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Viet Nam paid a friendship visit to Poland at the invitation of Foreign Minister Stefan Jedrychowski from September 6 to 11.

During her stay there, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh called on Edward Gierek, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, Josef Cyrankievicz, President of the State Council, and Piotr Jaroszewicz, President of the Polish Council of Ministers. She was also received by President Josef Janusz Groszkowski of the Polish National Unity Front, and Maria Milczarek, President of the Polish Women's League.

Receiving Mme Nguyen Thi Binh on September 10, President Josef Cyrankievicz said: "Thanks to its close unity, a nation though small can defeat a stronger enemy. With their struggle the Vietnamese people not only stimulate but also greatly inspire and influence national liberation movements. The valour and spirit of sacrifice of Viet Nam has enhanced the socialist countries' realization of the necessity to increase their all-out assistance to the Vietnamese people's effort."

A joint communique was issued after talks between the two Ministers for Foreign Affairs on September 11.

It said that in the Party and Government of Poland and her talks with Foreign Minister Stefan Jedrychowski, the Polish side reiterated its continuous support to the legitimate fight of the South Vietnamese people.

The Polish side vigorously condemns the aggression of US imperialism in Viet Nam and Indochina, the communique continued. At the same time it urges the US to give up its design against all the nations of Indochina. It also strongly condemns kept-up US provocations such as bombardments and other war activities against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

The Polish side once again reiterates its firm support to the RSVN PRG seven-point peace proposal as a sound and reasonable basis for a political settlement of the Viet Nam issue. For that, the US must set a deadline for the pullout of all US troops and those of the countries in the US camp from South Viet Nam within 1971, and let the South Vietnamese people set up without foreign interference a government of national concord really representing the interest of all social segments in South Viet Nam.

The two sides express their strong support to the resistance of the Lao and Cambodian patriotic forces who join hands with the Vietnamese people in the fight against the imperialist aggressors. The two sides hold that the Lao issue can only be solved on the basis of respect for the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, according to the March 1970 five point program and the June 22, 1970 proposal of the Lao Patriotic Front and that the Cambodian question can only be settled on the basis of the Cambodian National United Front program. The two sides assert that the respect for the fundamantal principles of the 1954 and 1962 Geneva Agreements is necessary and indispensable for the peaceful settlement of all the Indochinese issues."

in brief ★ in brief

— On September 14, in an interview with the visiting King of Afghanistan Mohammed Zahir, Mr NV Podgorny, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet said: "There is no doubt that the heroic Vietnamese people like the peoples of Laos and Cambodia, will succeed in forcing foreign interventionists out of the Indochinese peninsula."

— On September 9, in Moscow, the 3rd National Conference of the Viet Nam-Soviet Friendship Association approved an appeal to the Soviet people to ceaselessly step up their activities in support of Viet Nam and the RSVN PRG 7-point peace initiative and urged the US government to withdraw all US troops from South Viet Nam and withold their support from the Nguyen Van Thieu dictatorial regime.

— On the 25th anniversary of the OIJ foundation, the Algerian Pressmen Coalition scored in a statement the US aggressive war in Indochina and expressed their solidarity with the three Indochinese peoples.

— On September 10, in Algiers, a joint communique of the delegations of the Cuban Central Trade Union and the Algerian Labour General Union reiterated their firm solidarity with the heroic peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia and their total support to the RSVN PRG seven points.

— On September 12, on the annual L'Humanite *Festival, a resolution was passed at a big meeting held on the outskirts of Paris by 600,000 Frenchmen and Frenchwomen, which demanded the US government to respect the right of the three Indochinese peoples to decide themselves their own destiny, withdraw completely and unconditionally the US troops from South Viet Nam and negotiate seriously with the qualified representatives of the Vietnamese people at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam.*

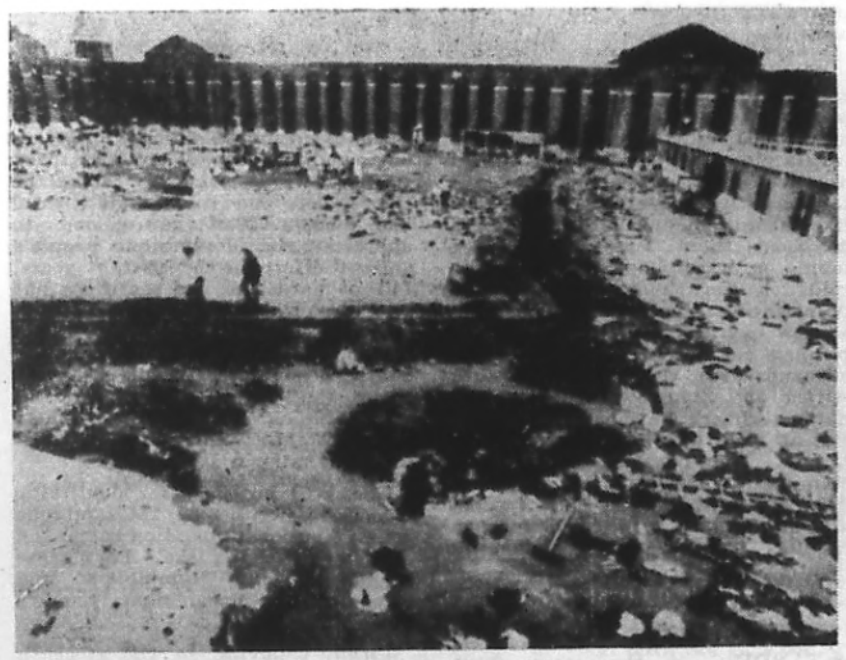
— On September 10, over 40 deputies representing different political parties in Colombia published a statement pressing for the immediate pullout of the GIs from Indochina.

Attica

a US Son My

THE US reactionary ruling circles deployed on September 13 a force comprising nearly 2,000 security troops supported by armed helicopters and artillery in an "attack" on Attica Prison (New York State) where some 2,000 inmates mostly black and coloured people were detained. According to statistics made public by the local authorities, about 30 detainees were shot dead and over 100 others wounded, but as revealed by US news agencies, the toll may be much heavier.

This massacre has deeply shocked the American and world peoples. At a meeting on September 14 by progressive and democratic forces in Buffalo, well-known Lawyer Kunstler likened the Attica "mass-slaying to Son My." In a parade in front of the US Justice Department in Washington, the participants shouted "Put Nixon in jail!", "Release the prisoners!," "Try murderers Nixon, Rockfeller, Mitchell."



Attica prison after the infamous mass-slaying

About the atrocity, the Danish "Daily News" editorially wrote: "The US has staged a My Lai right inside its territory. Without any doubt, this time the responsibility rests with the top man in the US (Nixon)."

This is left in no doubt. The same who had ordered the release of Calley, the Son My butcher now sent a cable to support Governor Rockfeller's handling of the Attica jail prisoners (*AP* September 14). Like My Lai, Attica was not an isolated case. It was an expression of the home policy of an imperialist administration which has been sustaining ever heavier setbacks in its agression against other countries (Viet Nam and Indochina), and resorting to ever more fascist methods, to stamp out the movement of progressive, democratic and peaceful forces at home, of which the black and coloured people's drive for their right to live and against racial discrimination had been a source of concern for the American ruling circles.

Attica was just a continuation of the series of assassinations of more than 30 main civil rights personalities, of the fascistic trial of the Chicago tribunal, of the murder of students at Kent and Jackson Universities...

While public pressure for the release of Angela Davis was still making new, while outcries against those who shot Georges Jackson, an active fighter against racial discrimination in the head and back of the San Quentin prison, continued to be heard from everywhere, the Attica mass-slaughter was really an arrogant challenge to the democratic and peaceful forces, to the coloured people in the US and to all those favouring freedom and justice throughout the world.

However, the use by the US ruling circles, in defiance of universal indignation, of troops and aircraft against prisoners without an ounce of iron in their hands was but an insane action of people in an isolated, helpless position, quite similar to beasts driven to bay.

Now as in the past, wholeheartedly sympathetic to the sufferings of the fraternal coloured people in the US, the South Vietnamese are filled with horror. Together with progressive public opinion in the world, they strongly condemn the US authorities' frequent murders of blacks and other coloured people. They insist that the US ruling circles immediately set free Angela Davis and other peace militants, progressives and democrats still held by them. They will pour their hatred through their bayonets and guns on the US aggressors. They are convinced that no violence can daunt their down-trodden coloured brothers and sisters in the US, and that the legitimate fight of these oppressed communities will surely win complete victory.

DAI LIEN

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